



## UNILU NEWS & EVENTS

November 26, 2025



### FROM PASTOR JOSH

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation. As we celebrate Jesus' birth two thousand years ago, we also make room for Jesus to show up in our lives right now. But

what can we be doing to ready ourselves for the excitement?

In the coming weeks, we've got several opportunities to figure out what might be meaningful for you this Advent:

- The Wednesday Bible Study (**Noon on Wednesdays, Fellowship Hall**) will focus on some of the songs around Jesus' birth like *Mary's Magnificat* and *Zechariah's Benedictus*
- We'll have **Midweek Advent Worship** featuring *Holden Evening Prayer* on Wednesday nights after a Community Meal
- Each Sunday we'll sing hymns, read passages, and light candles to center us on the Advent message
- And there are other seasonal things to get us into the holiday spirit like a **Congregational Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 6**; or we'll have a chance to go **Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 14**

Stay tuned for more information about what's ahead!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This email serves as notice that we will hold a Congregational meeting at **10:00 am on December 7th between services**. At this meeting we will vote on three new Council members and the 2026 proposed budget, so please plan on attending if you can. There will be a few other updates about the life of the congregation as well.

Click the tabs below to review two important documents to be approved: the **minutes from our meeting in April** and our **2026 Proposed Budget**. You can also find the bios for the Council Nominees in the section just below.

In the proposed budget, all employees receive a 3% raise. The committees are also given a 3% guideline for increases with the caveat that they explain any requests beyond the 3%. Comparisons with 2025 for salaries and benefits is very futile since a good part of the year we had just one pastor.

The Stewardship Committee supplied the estimated amounts for pledge and plate income for 2026 based on the current Stewardship Campaign. These stewardship amounts and the proposed budget will leave us with a positive balance of \$24,283. This gives us some interesting options!

## 2026 Proposed Budget

### Minutes from April 27, 2025 Meeting

## NOMINEES FOR NEW COUNCIL TERMS

There are three members of the Congregational Council who are coming to the end of their terms. Therefore, we will need to vote to **elect three new members at our Congregational Meeting on December 7**. Please take some time to read about each of the nominees below (you can click each to zoom in). We are grateful that **Marian Benton, Gary Caruso, Matthew Edge, and Tim Sellnow** have all expressed their willingness to serve. You can be in touch with each of the nominees on your own if you have further questions or concerns. Or you can contact the current Council President, Stephen Avery.

**Meet the Nominees**



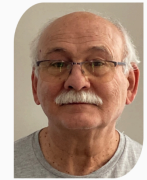
**Marian Benton**

**About Me**

We moved to Clemson, Charlie, Marian, Edward and Margaret, in 1989 and quickly found a church home at University Lutheran. I'm a graduate of Michigan State University and had a career in HR from 1976 - 1980 (when Edward was born) and then in banking from 1989 to 2019 when I retired. I work closely with Pickens County Habitat for Humanity and am a member of the Clemson Rotary Club. Little known fun fact—I used to be a synchronized swimmer (really!)

I love our Uni Lu community and would be honored to serve on council if elected.

**Meet the Nominees**



**Gary Caruso**

**About Me**

Barbara and I moved here about 6 years ago from our former home in Atlanta (Johns Creek) Georgia. We are lucky enough to have our daughter, her family and our son living in Greenville. I am a graduate of Georgia Tech and I started my own consulting engineering firm specializing in buildings after working as a construction Director and project manager for others. I retired in 2020. In my spare time, I enjoy woodturning and am learning to play the banjo.

We tried several churches here in the Clemson area before deciding that UNILU was the place for us. Friendly people with similar values mixed with traditional customs attracted us to UNILU and we became members. Since moving to Clemson, I have been active in Habitat for Humanity and Rebuild Upstate. I attempt to help where I can at UNILU with grounds maintenance, immigrant resettlement, and student interaction. If chosen for the council, I think I could best assist with the planning for the capital building needs of the church.

**Meet the Nominees**




**Matthew Edge**

**About Me**

I'm the son of Ben and Anita Edge (if you get us confused, I also respond to Kyle). I graduated from Clemson in 2015, where LCM was a huge part of my life. I currently live in Anderson with my wife, Heather, and work at Michelin as a product design engineer.

University Lutheran has been my second family since moving to Clemson in 2003. Between the youth group, LCM, and in life after college, Uni-Lu has shown me nothing but love and support and I would be a privilege to repay the kindness by serving on the council.

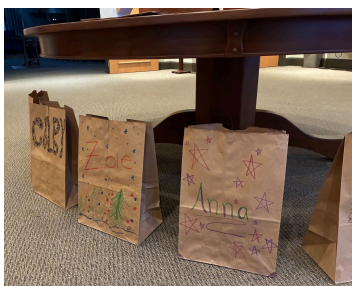
**Meet the Nominees**



**Tim Sellnow**

**About Me**

I am honored to be considered for University Lutheran's church council. I have been a member of University Lutheran since my wife, Deanna, and I moved to Clemson to join the Communication Department faculty at Clemson University two years ago. I am inspired by the mission of our church and eager to get more involved. I was born in Minnesota where I was baptized and confirmed in the ELCA Lutheran Church. I served previously on the church councils at ELCA Lutheran churches while living in North Dakota and Kentucky. At University Lutheran, I have been active in the campus mentorship program and have been involved in a variety of service projects. My wife and I have two children and three grandchildren.



## LCM EXAM STOCKINGS

**It's already the end of the semester! After**

**Thanksgiving, students only have one full week of classes left before exams. Show them your support by**

**praying and sending your blessings - and help them make it through this last**

**stretch by bringing in some snacks to fill their paper bag stockings! Talk to**

**Pastor Megan if you want to know how many bags to plan for, and look for the**

**bags under the big table in the Gathering Area on and **after Sunday,****

****November 30! Exams start Monday, December 8!****



## HANGING OF THE CHRISMONS

The greens are hung in the sanctuary, and the tree is in place. The first candle of the Advent wreath will be lighted this coming Sunday. The Chrismons need to be placed on the tree. **You are invited to hang a Chrismon or two (or more) after the 11 am worship service this coming Sunday (November 30th).** It's a great opportunity to see these beautiful beaded Christian symbols up close and be a part of the decorating process. Come join us!



## ADVENT MEALS

**Advent services begin Wednesday, December 3, and we will be having a light meal before each service, at 6 pm.** LCM takes care of the first week; we will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the weeks of Dec. 10 and 17. Everyone is welcome at our meals, if you can't bring something, we always have plenty!

Also, our annual University Lutheran Christmas Dinner will be **Saturday, December 6, at 4 pm**, in the Fellowship Hall. The Church will provide ham, rolls, and drinks. You're invited to bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert. This is always a wonderful evening, a great time of fellowship with our UniLu family!

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



Beautiful poinsettias adorning the sanctuary is a welcomed worship experience for the Christmas season. **If you would like to honor someone or remember someone with a poinsettia in the sanctuary, please place an order by completing the information on one of the envelopes to be found on the table in the narthex and enclose \$25 in cash or check.** You can also email Jan Fritz ([janfritz52@charter.net](mailto:janfritz52@charter.net)) to place an order. The deadline for your request is December 10th. No orders can be honored after that date. After Christmas Eve services, you are welcome to pick up your plant(s) to enjoy in your home.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Fritz by email or phone (**864-630-4945**).

## **ANNUAL UNILU STAFF APPRECIATION GIFTS**

Each year we take a moment in the Christmas season to appreciate the many efforts afforded by the University Lutheran Staff throughout the year. That includes the two pastors (Josh & Megan), the administration (Abi) and the music team (Judy & Rebecca). Please consider inserting a token of your appreciation in the box located on the round table in the Narthex **before Monday the 20th of December**. Thank you for your generosity!

Stephen Avery, Council President

**FROM STEPHEN AVERY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**Locking & Unlocking UniLu's Exterior Access Doors**

**We need your help... whenever entering UniLu's buildings in the off hours it is imperative that we use the automatic, electrical locks whenever possible. Contact the church office for the code. The code will will unlock the door. Those of us resorting to the use of pre-existing keys are all too often forgetting to lock back up. Our pastors and staff are routinely finding doors unlocked at all hours of the night, which is both a security and a safety issue. So, please use the electronic locks in the off hours. Thanks!**

### **Weekday (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00) Parking at University Lutheran**

**Just a reminder... to avoid a weekday parking ticket you must park in one of the nine UniLu parking slots at the back of the upper lot or in the lower lot near the administrative offices/LCM lounge. Be sure to prominently display your UniLu parking sticker (white rose) in the rear window of your car. They are available in the Narthex or church office.**

**If you are planning a short weekday visit (< 2 hours), you can use a slot in one of the first three rows of the upper lot for free. They are allotted on a first come, first serve basis.**

**Rows 4 and 5 of the upper lot are permanently leased to the city for weekday use (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00). If you park in any of those slots during the weekday hours you be subject to a parking ticket and or towed or both.**

**Peace,**

**Stephen Avery, Congregational Council President**

**ANGEL TREE FOR LSC**



**All gifts have been signed up for! Thank you for your support!**

**Gifts due Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – make sure the child's number is on the wrapped gift.**

**The gifts are going to the Lutheran Services Carolinas Youth Day program in Clinton SC, which serves middle and high school students in foster care.**

**Thank You!**

**Questions: Karen Dreher [jadreher@att.net](mailto:jadreher@att.net)**

## **MIDWEEK HAPPENINGS**

### **MONDAY MORNING WALKING GROUP ON PAUSE UNTIL WARMER WEATHER**

**The Monday Morning Walking Group has had a good run this Fall,  
and we'll try to start back up once there is warmer weather!**

### **MIDWEEK FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES**



### WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

Our midweek Bible Study is back. We'll meet on **Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. Bring a lunch or just show up! We'll meet through Advent and focus on the songs/poetry of the Advent season (e.g. the Magnificat, Zechariah's song).

### TABLE TALK AT KITE HILL BREWING

Come out to Kite Hill Brewing in Patrick Square for a conversation group and a chance to meet some folks outside of the pews on a Sunday morning! Our next monthly meeting will be **Monday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.** There is a menu for food/beverage purchases, or you can simply show up!

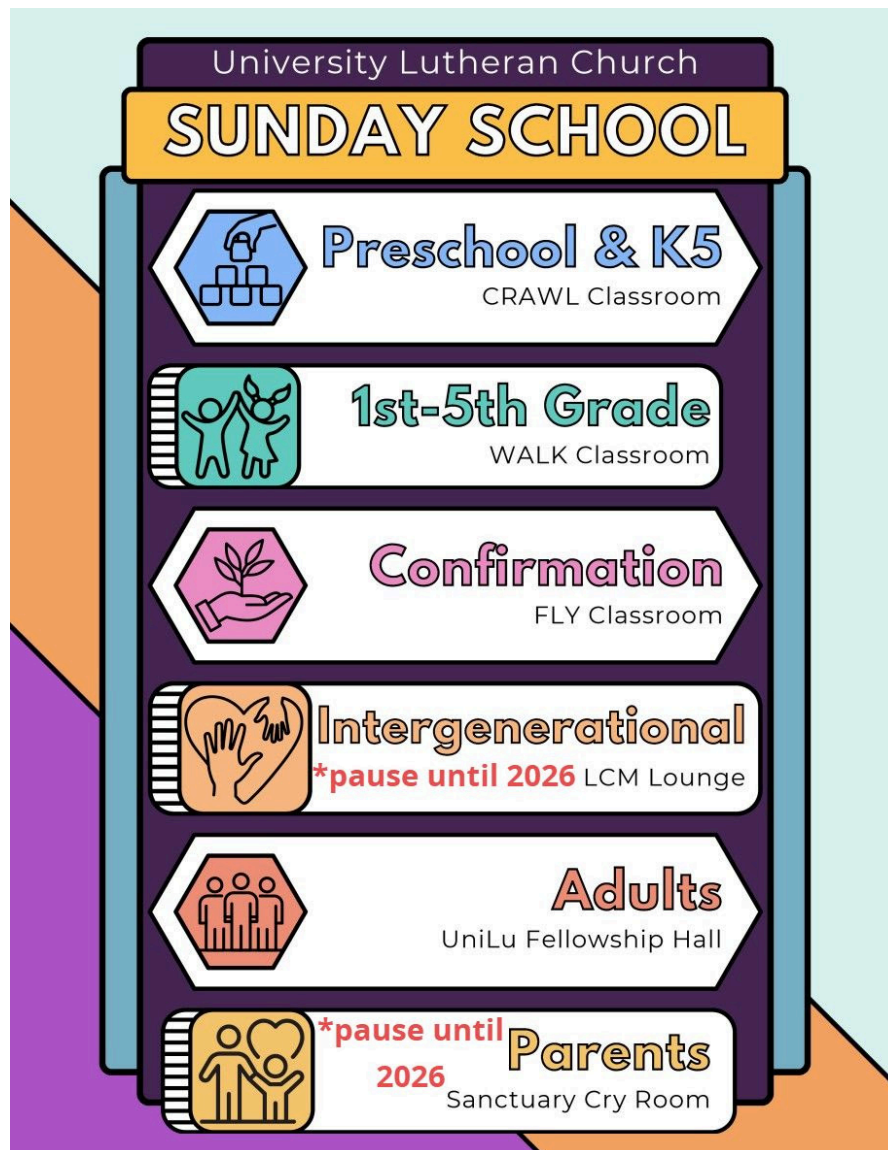
### SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Between our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sundays, we have learning opportunities for all ages! Remember that **Children's Choir rehearses at 10:45 a.m. every Sunday** in the WALK Classroom in the Education Building.

Check out the available classes below!

And click for more information on the [\*\*Adult Class opportunities!\*\*](#)

(NOTE: the 10-week intergenerational and parents classes will take a break until the beginning of 2026)



## Descriptions of Adult Classes

## NEWS FROM LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

### LCM HELPERS

Need a pet sitter? Babysitter? Yard work done? Anything else? Our LCM students would love to help! Please fill out the form [HERE](#) and they'll be in touch. This is volunteer work—but if you'd like to offer payment, any funds received will go directly towards their fees for LCM retreats and trips.

**NOTE: Students are out of town for Thanksgiving  
and then they're on break after December 12!**

## **HELP STOCK THE LCM LOUNGE**



### **CHECK OUT & STOCK UP THE LCM LOUNGE**

We've made some upgrades to the LCM lounge & added a study space at the end of the hall. We need your help filling it up with snacks!

- *Full sized bags of chips, popcorn, pretzels, or packages of cookies*
- *Drinks - gatorade, water, soda*
- *Individually packaged chips, cookies, etc.*

If you're at the grocery store and see these on sale - feel free to grab an extra one to donate to LCM. You can leave them in the kitchen downstairs. Our new study space is across from the downstairs kitchen!

We appreciate your generosity!

## **UNILU ONGOING EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY**

**Indoor Worship Services at 9 am & 11 am**

**Livestream Worship Service at 9 am**

[UniLu Youtube Channel](#)

**(look for the LIVE tab to watch live, or find videos posted later, too)**

**Sunday School for All Ages 10:00 am**

**Sam & Elena Plonk (Children & Youth) [samplonk@hotmail.com](mailto:samplonk@hotmail.com)**

**Linda Holt (Adult) [lindagtholt@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindagtholt@bellsouth.net)**

**Pastor Megan (Intergenerational) [boatwrightma@gmail.com](mailto:boatwrightma@gmail.com)**

**Children's Choir 10:45 am - 11:15 am; Deanna Sellnow [dsellno@clemsun.edu](mailto:dsellno@clemsun.edu)**

## **WEDNESDAY**

**Voice Choir Practice 5:30 pm**

**Campus Ministry Dinner 6:00 pm (Want to help? Talk to Pastor Megan!)**

**Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm**

## **UNILU PRAYERS**

### **WE ARE PRAYING FOR...**

#### **UniLu Family**

**The family of Bob Wiggins, Susanne Lemcke at the loss of her mother, Karen Waltz, Penny Booher, John Broadwell, Ann Brown, Roger Brown, Rosalyn Flanigan, Martha Harris, Ned Johnson, Joyce Lillehammer, Gail Paul, Tony Quesada, Larry Reamer, John Wagner, Pat Wagner**

#### **Extended Family & Friends**

**Nancy Carlson, Rose Angela Bennett, Russell Brown, Duke Brunetti & family, Marge Butler, Scott Crane, James DeLoach, Gregg Dupree, Jean Erskine, Alton Fanning, Jackson Flanigan, Kathy Francis, Barbara Lemcke, Marilee Long, Billie Mentz, Albert Parish, Billy Smith, Linda Smith, Martha Smith, Nancy Thomas, Elise White, Chris, Mona**

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

### **MISS A SERVICE?**

**The recorded worship services are posted to the "Live" tab of the**

**UniLu YouTube Channel: [University Lutheran YouTube Channel](#)**

## ON-SITE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday 9 am - 1 pm. Other days by appointment.

To make an appointment to meet on-site, please call **864-654-4232** or email Abi at [unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com)

## REMOTE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday 7 am– 3:30 pm

Friday 7 am - 12 noon

Abi can be reached during the above hours at **864-654-4232**

or [unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com)

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor Josh Kestner, Parish Pastor: [jkkestner@gmail.com](mailto:jkkestner@gmail.com)

Pastor Megan Boatwright, Campus Pastor: [boatwrightma@gmail.com](mailto:boatwrightma@gmail.com)

Abi Donhauser, Office Administrator: [unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com)

Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar

## LINKS

[SC LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

[UNILU WEBSITE](#) • [LECTIONARY/READINGS](#)

[LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY](#) • [SC SYNOD](#)

[ELCA GOOD GIFTS](#)

## UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

*University Lutheran is a family of faith, called by the Holy Spirit to be one ministry serving both our community and university.*

***The Spirit calls us to make known, by word and deed, the story of God's love in Jesus. Our worship together empowers us to grow as disciples as we receive, celebrate, and share God's gifts with all of God's creation and created ones.***

University Lutheran Church | [111 Sloan Street](#) | [Clemson, SC 29631 US](#)

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